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(517) 373-7946

Contact: Chad Wing

New Alpena Community College president meets with state legislative leaders

Lansing – State Sen. Tony Stamas (R-36th District) and State Sen. Jason Allen (R–37th District) welcomed the new president of Alpena Community College, Dr. Olin Joynton, to the state Capitol yesterday.

Joynton was in Lansing to meet with legislative leaders and discuss the important role community colleges play in training Michigan's workforce and to urge continued support at the state level for Michigan's community colleges.

"I am gratified to work with a state that has a proud tradition of strong support for education," Joynton said. "The legislators I met with understand the critical role community colleges play in assisting the people of Michigan to obtain the education and training needed to improve their own lives and environment."

Joynton was selected as the new president of Alpena Community College late last year. His background includes serving as vice president for Education Programs of Montgomery College in Texas since 1999 and teaching philosophy and English at North Harris College in Houston from 1978 to 1999. Joynton received a bachelor's degree in philosophy from Wheaton College in 1972. He later went on to earn a doctorate in philosophy and a master's degree in English from Rice University.

"It was great to have Dr. Joynton here to discuss the vital importance of community colleges in our state," said Stamas. "Having worked closely with community colleges for the past five years, I've seen firsthand how important they are for local communities and the educational environment of our state as a whole."

Stamas served as chair of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Community Colleges during his four years in the House of Representatives and now serves as vice-chair of the budget in the Senate.

"Dr. Joynton will play an important role in how Alpena Community College will continue to serve northern Michigan for years to come," Allen said. "Having him here at the Capitol was an important first step to building a productive relationship with our state legislative leaders."

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Editor's note: A photo of Sen. Stamas, Sen. Allen, Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkema and Dr. Olin Joynton is available for download on the Senate Majority Photowire at: http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/photowire/Stamas/Stamas.htm.